

Applicant's Response

In Applicant's Response dated 09/30/2011, Applicant amended Claims 1-8, 10-12, 15-17, and 20-24, canceled Claim 22, and argued against all rejections previously set forth in the Office Action dated 07/18/2011.

In light of Applicant's amendments and remarks, the rejections of Claims 1-8, 10-12, 15-16, and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. §101 are withdrawn, according to the statement that Applicant has submitted in Remarks dated 09/30/2011 as following:

"Further, Applicant submits for the record that the term 'computer storage medium device' as recited in the claims does not include propagating signals and carrier waves."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-2, 5-8, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearson (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0028610) in

view of Block et al. (hereinafter Block): U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0050976, Aboulhosn et al. (hereinafter Aboulhosn): U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0068524, and further in view of Bly el al. (hereinafter Bly): U.S. Patent No. 5,008,853.

Claim 1:

Pearson expressly teaches:

A computer storage medium comprising computer executable code that is executable by a computing device to cause to be displayed a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface comprising:

a group space associated with a first member of a group and at least one other member of the group, the group space comprising a first display area for providing an appearance of a shared file location which the group member and the at least one other member of the group may access (fig. 9; [0051]: a group space comprising a shared files pane 374/a first display area that presents a shared file in which another group member may access);

a first control located in a second display area selectable by the first member to select at least one task associated with the group space and to activate one or more operations with respect to files displayed in the first display area, such that the at least one other member of the group is automatically shown the result of the one or more operations performed with respect to the files displayed in the first display area (fig. 9.; [0008][0011][0051]: a directory content pane 372/a second display area in which a task

is selectable with respect to files and activated with an uploading operation, such that the result of the uploading operation is shown with respect to the files displayed in the shared files pane 374/first display area); and

Pearson fails to disclose:

a selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first member of the group, the group member list including a plurality of group members, an indication field of a role for each of the plurality of group members;

a second control located in the second display area, the second control including a drop-down menu selectable by the first member of the group for defining one of a plurality of roles for the at least one other member of the group.

Block expressly teaches:

a selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first member of the group, the group member list including a plurality of group members, an indication field of a role for each of the plurality of group members (figs. 8 & 10; [0132]-[0135]: displaying a group member's list including specified roles);

a second control located in the second display area, the second control including a drop-down menu selectable by the first member of the group for defining one of a

plurality of roles for the at least one other member of the group (fig. 18; [0150]: displaying a drop-down selectable menu for defining a role for a group member).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson, to include: *a selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first member of the group, the group member list including a plurality of group members, an indication field of a role for each of the plurality of group members; a second control located in the second display area, the second control including a drop-down menu selectable by the first member of the group for defining one of a plurality of roles for the at least one other member of the group*, for the purpose of providing Pearson with the benefit of the ability for each member of a group to classify the access level of sharing depending upon the role of the person associated with the particular community, as taught in Block.

Pearson and Block fail to disclose:

one or more indications reflecting whether each of the plurality of group members is currently online.

Aboulhosen expressly teaches:

one or more indications reflecting whether each of the plurality of group members is currently online ([0015]: a list of group members reflecting whether the group member is currently online or offline).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson and Block, to include: *one or more indications reflecting whether each of the plurality of group members is currently online*, for the purpose of providing Pearson and Block with the benefit of getting up-to-date information on the connectivity in the file sharing system, as taught in Aboulhosn.

Pearson, Block, and Aboulhosn fail to disclose:

a visual indication that identifies instances of content as new content based on the instances of content being added or changed within a predetermined period of time, and a third control allowing selection by the first member of the group of the predetermined period of time to be used to identify the instances of content as new content.

Bly expressly teaches:

a visual indication that is configured to identify instances of content as new content to at least two of the plurality of group members based on the instances of content being added or changed within a predetermined period of time, the visual indication being presented on visual representations of the instances of content; and a third control

allowing selection by the first member of the group of the predetermined period of time to be used to identify the instances of content as new content (figs. 2 & 5-9; col. 3 lines 60-67; col. 4 lines 1-8; col. 12 lines 15-40; col. 28 lines 61-67; col. 29 lines 1-50: visual indication of identifying instances of new content to multiple users of a shared group over a certain period of time by means of adding a small icon to indicate changes in the shared book content).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson, Block and Aboulhosn, to include: *a visual indication that identifies instances of content as new content based on the instances of content being added or changed within a predetermined period of time, and a third control allowing selection by the first member of the group of the predetermined period of time to be used to identify the instances of content as new content*, for the purpose of providing Pearson, Block, and Aboulhosn with the benefit of recognizing new information intuitively for user's awareness, as taught in Bly.

Pearson further teaches:

Claim 2. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the group space is configured to facilitate communication among the plurality of group members via a peer-to-peer network ([0027]: communicating through the peer-to-peer network).

Claim 5:

The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the group space is comprised of a subfolder that is displayed in a folder view (fig. 9.: the folder named "Arrivals" is a subfolder which is displayed within the folder of "OthNet").

Claim 6. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the group space is configured to enable the first member of the group to perform file system operations with respect to files in the group space on the basis of permissions being granted to the first member of the group ([0045]: "permission to share" is required by the file sharing administrator/the first user).

Claim 7. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein said group space is assigned a unique identifier that is made available to the at least one other member ([0045]: generating a unique identifier for use by the host computers/group members of the file-sharing system).

Claim 8. The computer storage medium as in claim 7, wherein each of the group members having access to said group space is assigned a unique identifier that is made available to the other group members ([0045]: a unique identifier in identifying files to be shared among the host computers/group members).

Claim 10. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface further comprises a third control located in the second display area, the third control being selectable by the first member for adding at least one additional group member ([0028]: adding a new host computer/new member to the host list of the given host computer/first member).

Claim 11. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the group space associated with the first member is further configured to cause a version of the group space associated with the at least one other member of the group to be changed in appearance in response to a change to the group space associated with the first member (figs. 43 & 47; [0065]: in response to change to the group space associated with the host computer/first member by moving a file to the shared file list 374 in fig. 47, displaying a version of the group space including the moved file in the directory content pane 372 in fig. 47 with a checked checkbox to indicate the status of the file as being available for sharing by other members of the group).

Claim 12. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface further comprises an indication of a file dropped by the first member into the group space whereby a notification corresponding to the indication of the file is automatically transmitted to the at least one other member of the group ([0035]:

indication of file receiving from a host computer/first member through a checklist used to keep track of requested file by other members).

2. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearson in view of Block and Aboulhosn, and further in view of Riddle: U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0187924 and Bly.

Claim 15:

Pearson expressly teaches:

A computer storage medium comprising computer executable code that is executable by a computing device to cause to be displayed a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface comprising:

the first shared space display area includes at least one visible task item selectable by the first member of the group to activate an operation to be performed with respect to the first shared space display area (fig. 9; [0051]: the sharing view area 370 in fig. 9, which is the first shared space display area, includes multiple task items selectable by the host/first member of the group to activate an operation to be performed, such as selecting and opening a folder);

Pearson fails to disclose:

a selectable indicator for visually presenting a list of members of the group to the first member of the group, the list of members of the group including an indication field of a role for each member in the list of members of the group; a control for selecting one of a plurality of roles for the at least one other online member of the group.

Block expressly teaches:

a selectable indicator for visually presenting a list of members of the group to the first member of the group, the list of members of the group including an indication field of a role for each member in the list of members of the group (figs. 8 & 10; [0132]-[0135]: displaying a group member's list including specified roles),

a control for selecting one of a plurality of roles for the at least one other online member of the group (fig. 18; [0150]: selecting a role from a drop-down selectable menu for the other members of the group).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson, to include:

a selectable indicator for visually presenting a list of members of the group to the first member of the group, the list of members of the group including an indication field of a role for each member in the list of members of the group; a control for selecting one of a plurality of roles for the at least one other online member of the group, for the purpose of providing Pearson with the benefit of the ability for each member of a group to

classify the access level of sharing depending upon the role of the person associated with the particular community, as taught in Block.

Pearson in view of Block fails to disclose:

the list of members of the group also including indicia reflecting, for each member of the group, whether the member of the group is currently connected to a network associated with the group.

Aboulhosn expressly teaches:

the list of members of the group also including indicia reflecting, for each member of the group, whether the member of the group is currently connected to a network associated with the group ([0015]: a list of group members including a notification whether the group member is currently online).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson and Block, to include: *the list of members of the group also including indicia reflecting, for each member of the group, whether the member of the group is currently connected to a network associated with the group*, for the purpose of providing Pearson and Block with the benefit of getting up-to-date information on the connectivity in the file sharing system, as taught in Aboulhosn.

Pearson in view Block and Aboulhosn fails to disclose:

a first shared space display area for a first member of a group and at least one other member of the group, the first shared space display area being configured to receive a drop of a file icon and further being configured to, responsive to the drop of the file icon in the first shared space display area, cause the file icon to become visible in a different graphical user interface associated with the at least one other member of the group wherein a shared file associated with the file icon may be retrieved by selecting file icon.

Riddle expressly teaches:

a first shared space display area for a first member of a group and at least one other member of the group, the first shared space display area being configured to receive a drop of a file icon and further being configured to, responsive to the drop of the file icon in the first shared space display area, cause the file icon to become visible in a different graphical user interface associated with the at least one other member of the group wherein a shared file associated with the file icon may be retrieved by selecting file icon

(fig. 2; [0031][0032][0079]: a first shared space display area 200 of fig. 2, for a first member 202 and another member 201 of the group, and receiving a drop of a file icon, such as "MacsBug", from desktop of the first shared space into a file sharing window 203 to be shared so that the dropped file icon become visible in a different window/GUI 203).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson, Block and Aboulhosen, to include: *a first shared space display area for a first member of a group and at least one other member of the group, the first shared space display area being configured to receive a drop of a file icon and further being configured to, responsive to the drop of the file icon in the first shared space display area, cause the file icon to become visible in a different graphical user interface associated with the at least one other member of the group wherein a shared file associated with the file icon may be retrieved by selecting file icon*, for the purpose of providing Pearson, Block, and Aboulhosen with the benefit of moving files intuitively and conveniently in different locations, as taught in Riddle.

Pearson in view Block, Aboulhosen, and Riddle fails to disclose:

A visual indication presented on the file icon that identifies the file icon as being associated with new content.

Bly expressly teaches:

A visual indication presented on the file icon that identifies the file icon as being associated with new content (figs. 2 & 5-9; col. 28 lines 61-67; col. 29 lines 1-50: visual indication presented on the file icon identifying new content).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson, Block, Aboulhosn, and Riddle, to include: *A visual indication presented on the file icon that identifies the file icon as being associated with new content*, for the purpose of providing Pearson, Block, Aboulhosn, and Riddle with the benefit of recognizing new information intuitively for user's awareness, as taught in Bly.

Pearson further teaches:

Claim 16. The graphical user interface as in claim 15, wherein the computer network comprises a peer-to-peer network ([0027]: peer-to-peer network).

3. Claims 17 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearson, in view of Block, Aboulhosn and Bly.

Claim 17.

Pearson expressly teaches:

A method comprising:

causing to be displayed to a first user via a first user display a group folder object having associated therewith a first selectable task for forming a group (fig. 9;

[0008][0011][0051]: displaying a group folder to a first user having associated with a task, which correspond to a list of group members where a user-selected file is stored);

causing to be displayed a second selectable indicator that is selectable to select

between a first mode in which files from a group space associated with the group are copied to the computing device associated with the at least one other user in response

to a demand for the files from the at least one other user (fig. 36; [0049][0061]: a

transfer view/first mode where files associated with the group are copied or transferred from the source host computer to the requesting host computer, which is the computing device of other user, according to the request of down-loading files from the requesting host computer), and a second mode in which files from the group space are

automatically copied to the computing device associated with the at least one other user

in response to the files being added to the group space (fig. 9; [0049][0051]-[0053]: a

sharing view/second mode where in response to the files being added to the group space to share in the shared file pane 374 in fig. 9, those added files are appeared on the computing device of other users to see those files available for sharing).

Pearson fails to disclose:

transmitting a request to join the group by sending a communication over a network for receipt by a computing device associated with at least one other user to initiate a group communication session between the first user and the at least one other user;
receiving from the computing device associated with the at least one other user a response to the request, the response including a unique numeric identifier associated with the at least one other user; causing to be displayed a first selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first user, the group member list including an indication field of a role for each of the members in the group member list.

Block expressly teaches:

transmitting a request to join the group by sending a communication over a network for receipt by a computing device associated with at least one other user to initiate a group communication session between the first user and the at least one other user (fig. 21;
[0154][0155]: sending an invitation to join the group from a first user, such as owner, to a second user to initiate a group communication between the first user and the second user);
receiving from the computing device associated with the at least one other user a response to the request, the response including a unique numeric identifier associated with the at least one other user (fig. 23; [0157]: receiving information in response to an invitation by means of tracking the response with numeric number for each invitee);

causing to be displayed a first selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first user, the group member list including an indication field of a role for each of the members in the group member list (figs. 8 & 10; [0132]-[0135]: displaying a group member's list including specified roles).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson, to include: *transmitting a request to join the group by sending a communication over a network for receipt by a computing device associated with at least one other user to initiate a group communication session between the first user and the at least one other user; receiving from the computing device associated with the at least one other user a response to the request, the response including a unique numeric identifier associated with the at least one other user; causing to be displayed a first selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first user, the group member list including an indication field of a role for each of the members in the group member list, for the purpose of providing Pearson with the benefit of overcoming the concerns of privacy and security in the level of sharing, as taught in Block.*

Pearson and Block fail to disclose:

the list of group members includes an indicia reflecting for each member of the group whether the member of the group is currently connected to the network.

Aboulhosn expressly teaches:

the list of group members includes an indicia reflecting for each member of the group whether the member of the group is currently connected to the network ([0015]: a list of group members including notification whether the group member is currently online).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson and Block, to include: *the list of group members includes an indicia reflecting for each member of the group whether the member of the group is currently connected to the network*, for the purpose of providing Pearson and Block with the benefit of getting up-to-date information on the connectivity in a file sharing system, as taught in Aboulhosn.

Pearson, Block, and Aboulhosn in view of Bly further teaches:

causing to be displayed an indication of a file added to the group space by the first user, the group space being configured to cause the indication of the file to be displayed to the at least one other user with a new content indicator that indicates that the file was added or modified within a predetermined period of time, the new content indicator being configured to be visually presented on the indication of the file added to the group space (figs. 2 & 5-9; col. 3 lines 60-67; col. 4 lines 1-8; col. 12 lines 15-40; col. 28 lines 61-67; col. 29 lines 1-50: visual indication of identifying instances of new content to multiple users of a shared group over a certain period of time by means of adding a small icon to indicate changes in the shared book content).

Pearson further teaches:

Claim 20. The method according to claim 17, wherein the network comprises a peer-to-peer network ([0027]).

Claim 21. The method as in claim 17, further comprising receiving an input selecting between the first mode and the second mode (fig. 9; [0049]: selecting between the transfer view/first mode and the sharing view/second mode).

4. Claims 3, 4, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearson in view of Block, Aboulhosen and Bly, and further in view of Riddle.

Claims 3 and 4:

As indicated in the above rejection, Pearson in view of Block, Aboulhosen and Bly discloses every limitation of Claim 1.

Pearson and Block, Aboulhosen in view of Riddle expressly disclose substantially similar subject matter as indicated Claim 15:

Claim 3. the computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the at least one task comprises a first computer file system task usable to perform a drag and drop operation

with respect to files located in the first display area (fig. 2; [0079]: performing a drag and drop operation with respect to files in a GUI window).

Claim 4. the computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the at least one task comprises a first computer file system task usable to perform at least one of a copy, cut, paste or edit operation with respect to files located in the first display area ([0031][0032]: performing a copy operation with respect to files in a GUI window)..

Claims 23 and 24:

The subject matter recited in Claims 23 and 24 corresponds to the subject matter recited in Claim 1. Thus Pearson and Block, Aboulhosn, in view of Bly discloses every limitation of Claims 23 and 24, as indicated in the above rejections for Claim 1.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments against the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 103 with respect to Claims 1-8, 10-12, 15-17, 20-21, and 23-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAEHO D. SONG whose telephone number is (571)272-7524. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:30-6:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boris Pesin can be reached on (571)272-4070. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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